



**March 2011**

**Volume 7, Issue 03**

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## From The Editor...



### IN THIS ISSUE

**PAGE 2: Prez**  
**PAGE 3: Minutes**  
**PAGE 7: Crystal**  
**PAGE 9: St. Patty's**  
**PAGE 10: Sparky**

### "Your Novice Accent"

Years ago the ARRL published a little pamphlet with the above title. It was all about how to operate on the "real ham bands" after being on the "Novice bands" for a long time. Apparently, in years past, new ham radio operators spent a bit of time serving in the lowest class of ham before they graduated to real ham radio.

The reason that I mention this, is that in case no one has noticed, ten meters has been showing some signs of returning to life. This is very good news for those of us who like ten, but it is also a bit of a downer also.

I have been listening to ten for the last few days and while it is sounding like a "real ham band" for the most part, there are also indications that there are some of the folks who have never graduated to "real" ham radio. I refer to those who can't seem to leave their CB band habits behind.

These guys who use 10-codes and silly lingo make us all look bad. Especially when the band opens up unexpectedly and the local clique is now being heard in distant locales.

Now before you go off half-cocked, thinking the 'ol Prez will be picking on our newbie's, think again!

Most of the bad habits I heard today are coming from folks who have been licensed for decades! In the case of the "Good 'ol Boy" WB4\*\*\* that I heard today, he was apparently licensed just after Marconi first stuck his finger in a light socket! I made a point of calling him out and pointed out that he should behave like an adult and stop making himself look foolish. Of course that was exactly the wrong thing to do, because he then went on about a fifteen minute on-air rant about how he had been licensed for years and years, and he did not need anyone telling him what to do ect ect ect.

But, he did stop using the CB lingo and the 'ol boy lingo, so maybe it was worthwhile after all.

All I'm saying is: before you act or speak, think! Remember that even though conversations on ten are usually just local in nature, sometimes you are on the world stage.

Act accordingly!

73, Gary WG7X

PS: You can be an Old Timer and still act like a "Novice" sometimes...

News and Views from "The Prez"
--------------------------------

**AARRRRGGGGHHH!!!**

**("I hate my computer!!")**

**Yeah....**

It's a real love-hate relationship, but sometimes it's not all the computers fault, its those blankity-blank virus writers who should all be taken out and shot!!



Yes, I've just been the victim of one of those social misfits. Not on **THIS PC**, thank goodness, but on one of my contest logging computers.

There I was, fat, dumb and (Really dumb!) and happy logging away for the latest ARRL DX contest, when the virus hit and my PC locked up warning me in...

## **BIG RED LETTERS!!!**

... That my PC was now infected and that I should provide this scammer with sixty USA dollars to ensure that the infection should be erased and my happiness might be restored.

Of course, I then proceeded to dump the OS and start over from scratch. I'm still in that process by-the-way...

I don't know of that was a true virus or just good marketing, but it certainly had an effect on yours truly. Fortunately for me, I still have original distribution disks and was able to scrub the hard drive, but it is just an example of how low some folks are when it comes to scamming money out of others.

Lesson learned... Install good anti-virus software and keep it updated. (I really thought that I was protected!) Problem here was that the problem I got was not really virus as such, it was only a hostile take-over of the PC. The end result is the same.

73 All,  
Gary WG7X  
RCT President

**Board Meeting  
2 March 2011**

The 2 February 2011 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma. Vice President Al Churchill called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President: Al Churchill AC7BU  
Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM  
Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ  
Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY  
Board Member: Alan Lentz – W7AML  
Board Member: Si Nelsen – KA7AQT  
Board Member: Crystal Quamme – K7XK  
Board Member: Nick Winter – K7MO

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 14 names on the attendance roster.*

**HEALTH AND WELFARE:** Nick – K7MO noted the passing of Merl Chavis W7IKG/W7XM who was a very active member of the Radio Club of Tacoma for many years. Nick asked we be sure that his name is posted to the Silent Key Board.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Larry Watson KD4VOM

**Correspondence:** Larry reported membership renewals, property tax bills and the telephone bill.

**Minutes:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the 2 February meeting as coordinated and corrected.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bob Purdom AD7LJ  
Bob circulated the February financial report indicating an income of \$ 6,097.75 and expenses of \$ 2,892.65. A copy of the February monthly financial summary is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership:** Frank AC7JY reports the membership count reflects 200 paid members as of today. Work is ongoing to have the annual membership roster and cards ready for distribution shortly after the end of the 3 month grace period which ends the last day of March.

**Hamfest:** Larry KD4VOM reports that the Bethel Jr. High facility is reserved, the Flyers have been printed and many will be distributed on 12 March at the Mike and Key Hamfest. The ARRL Sanction has been approved and received.

**Repeater Committee**

Alan Lentz W7AML made a motion that the Board approve a budget for repeater operations for this calendar year in the amount of \$ 1,500.00. During the discussion the board asked for a listing of the expected expenses.

Si – KA7AQT asked if there is any planning for large expense items. Larry KD4VOM noted that the Bylaws require the Treasurer to prepare and present for Board approval a one and three year budget, which would presumably be the result of extending our traditional expenses together with the plans and budget submissions of the various club committee managers, e.g. Museum, Radio, Library, etc.

**A Motion to approve the Repeater Committee Budget request for \$ 1,500 was made, seconded and passed.**

**Field Day:** - Noted that there is yet no manager for this year's Field Day.

**Property Management**

Frank AC7JY circulated a "last look" coordinated listing of proposed surplus property to be disposed of, mostly at the upcoming Mike and Key Hamfest. There were no objections

**A Motion to approve the 2 March property selection list for disposition, as outlined in our Property Management Standard Operating Procedure, was made, seconded and passed.**

Steve Blacksten AD7VL requested that the commercial antenna he donated in 2002 and which has not been used by the Club be returned to him so that he can donate it to Pierce County Fire District 17 for their communications needs.

**A motion was made, seconded and passed: to return the antenna Steve AD7VI requested for donation to the Pierce County Fire District 17.**

**Library Committee:** No report

**HF Radio Room Operations:** No report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:****Bylaws Revision: Pending**

Peter Baker AD7EU circulated an early draft of the club Bylaws with preliminary markups.

**Financial Account Audit: Pending**

The President needs to appoint a financial account auditing committee to complete the audit required by the Bylaws. Former treasurers' Pat Wingerter W7TN and Chuck Kemmer AC7QN were suggested as possible candidates to conduct the audit.

**Annual Budget Planning: Pending**

Last year Joe K7ZG conducted a helpful budget data call to assist the club in planning for the year's activities. Larry KD4VOM will provide Bob AD7LJ with copies of Joe's budget data call information and formats.

**Bylaws review for Standing Rules Update:**

Peter – AD7EU reported that his review of the 2010 minutes revealed no motions or decisions which should be considered for inclusion in the Club Standing Rules.

**NEW BUSINESS:****Membership Meetings:**

A general discussion of the Club's membership meetings developed. Most of the Board Members noted that having a Board meeting and two membership meetings a month, along with Saturday Open House and other club duties is consuming a great deal of time.

It was noted that the Bylaws require only one "Membership" meeting monthly, and allows for "Special" membership meetings under several circumstances. Nick K7MO noted that since his membership in the 1970's the club has traditionally had two membership meetings monthly. Several options were discussed, including changing to one "Regular" Membership Meeting monthly and perhaps a second monthly meeting at the clubhouse to promote Elmering, and other projects of interest to the club members.

Larry – KD4VOM was asked to write an article to be disseminated to the general membership outlining the discussion, possible options and soliciting feedback from the membership at large for their views and recommendations.

**Rookie Roundup:**

Nick K7MO is planning to conduct several

Rookie Roundup sessions this year in preparation for the April ARRL Rookie Roundup contest.

**2 Meter Net Control Operators needed:**

The Club is asking for a few folks to step up to learn and be available Tuesday night 2 Meter Net Controllers. Training and tutoring is available. Contact Gary WG7X, and/or Peter AD7EU if interested.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS:****Radio Club of Tacoma Planning:**

President Gary provided a list of key club events and activities for the coming year many of which need managers/coordinators.

**Jim Kirkreit Picnic**

Al Churchill AC7BU volunteered to make the reservations for this year's picnic.

**A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize the expenditure of up to \$ 100.00 to reserve a facility for this year's picnic.**

**Field Day**

Last year's Field Day was managed by Nick K7MO and Bob AD7LJ. Nick is unable to do Field Day this year, and Bob too has commitments, although both are available to provide assistance to this year's coordinator.

**Hamfest**

Most of last year's team will continue this year's Hamfest, Larry KD4VOM, Al K7HW and Rick KE7EMW. Maury W7OT is joining the crew to handle Hamfest task assignments. The major vacancy here is a manager for the Hamfest Snack Bar. We still need someone to take on this important job...Contact Larry KD4VOM.

**W7DK @the Fair**

Last year's crew, under the leadership of Stephen AD7AB did great job. Stephen has agreed to chair the group again this year. Crystal K7XK has offered to help again this year.

**Salmon Run**

Al N7OMS, Gary WG7X, Rich KR7W and others made last year's Salmon Run an operational and financial success. Al needs someone to handle the mailing and pledge operations this coming year. Please contact Gary WG7X or Al N7OMS,

**W7DK Holiday Banquet**

Jim Mendenhall KE7WHN and Greta KF7SKW did a bang up job at last year's banquet. There were several who believe moving the banquet to a noon 1pm time frame would be better.

**Special Event Station:** Frank AC7JY recalled that the club operated a Special Event Station on the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mt. St Helen's eruption, and suggested we might consider one again for the upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The discussion included the fact that the club is celebrating its 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, and that may be a great opportunity to operate a Special Event Station.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:****The Spectrum Management Bill, HR 607**

This bill has a very scary section for the Amateur Radio Community. This community includes other countries and not just the US. This bill proposes that the 420-450mhz segment of the radio spectrum, now assigned for Amateur Radio use, be auctioned off for commercial use. Here are links to the ARRL site with info on how to voice your opinion and concerns.

<http://www.arrl.org/hr-607>

<http://www.arrl.org/sample-letters>

During the discussion it was recommended that we consider having sample letters and information at our club table at the Mike and Key Hamfest.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

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 RICHARD (LARRY) WATSON KD4VOM AL  
 CHURCHILL AC7BU  
 A c t i n g S e c r e t a r y  
 Vice President

**General Meeting**  
**9 February 2011 MINUTES**

The 9 February 2011 Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. Vice President Al Churchill AC7BU called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President: Al Churchill AC7BU

Secretary: Larry Watson

Board : Frank Palmer – AC7JY

Board :Si Nelsen -- KA7AQT

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 42 names on the attendance roster.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was led by Vice President Al Churchill

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed.

**ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:** Peter AD7EU is mending well from some broken bones.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Larry KD4VOM reports the usual utility bills and early membership renewals.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** The Treasurer's Report for January was made available for review. *A copy of the Treasurer's report is attached to the original copy of these minutes.*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership:** Frank AC7JY reports that membership renewals are underway. Leonard KA7NWF announced that he has individualized membership renewal forms to hand out tonight, and those that are not distributed tonight will be mailed.

**Volunteer Examiner Report – John AC7WW**

Tuesday February 8th 2011 at the Radio Club of Tacoma clubhouse saw twelve candidates and eleven volunteer examiners gathered for a testing session. Twenty-four exam elements were graded with thirteen being passed.

New license class earned was five Technicians, and six Generals. One candidate failed to get an initial license.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

## Radio Club of Tacoma

Al, AC7BU	Jan, K7HTU
Jon, AD7AW	
Rich, KK7VH	Jim, N7RHX
Joe, K7ZG	
Steve, AD7AB	Don, K7QLC
Andrew, K7ASQ	Bill, AD7QI

There will be a special testing session Saturday, March 5, 6 PM at the City of Tacoma Fire Training Center 2124 E. Marshall Ave (near the tide flats). This should be a large session with possibly two teams grading exams.

The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, March 8, 2011.

**PROGRAM:** Tonight's program was an Amateur Radio Video Network presentation on Digital Voice, the HF modes.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Worked all States Net:** Mike W7XTZ reported he is working as a 20 meter coordinator net operator with a website that helps folks get their Worked All States contacts. Here's the URL link: <http://www.omiss.net/Facelift/>

### **TIPS and TRICKS:**

There were discussions on a repeater application for the iPad; and a county hunting contact with Molokai

**SHOW AND TELL:** There was a demonstration and discussion of a homebrew keyer built using the LT Spice design/simulation software. Morel W6LIX demonstrated the by pounding the brass... Here's the link: <http://www.linear.com/designtools/software/ltspice.jsp>

Rich KR7W discussed a book he was browsing; as 1946 Radio Handbook (not ARRL) where Ultra High Frequency was 50MHz (then Megacycles) and even early 30MHz was considered Ultra High Frequency.

**DOOR PRIZE:** Pete KK7QW collected the roll of safety tape.

**RAFFLE:** Jan K7HTU picked up the 63 foot roll of RG 213 with connectors.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm

## Logger's Bark March 2011

### **General Meeting 23 February 2011 MINUTES**

The 23 February 2011 Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Gary McAdams WG7X called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Gary McAdams WG7X

Treasurer: Bob Purdom -- AD7LJ

Board: Frank Palmer -- AC7JY

Board: Crystal Quamme -- K7XX

Board: Nick Winter -- K7MO

*A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 22 names on the attendance roster.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Was led by President Gary WG7X

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed.

**ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:** Nick K7MO announced Merl Chavis W7IKG/W7XM, who was active in the club for many years has become a Silent Key

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS: None**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS: None**

**SHOW AND TELL:** Gary passed around an EIMAC 3-500Z tube and a discussion ensued on the tubes use and how to make these kinds of tubes last. The discussion focused on the need to run Thoriated Tungsten filament tubes hot occasionally to prolong their life.

**HINTS AND KINKS:** This portion of the meeting discussed running a linear amplifier program, and included a recommendation to Google Search for "Ameritron 811A" Here's one link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OT1UaCrVvd4>

**PROGRAM:** Tonight's program was a presentation of the Radio Club 1956 Field Day narrated by Nick K7MO, followed by another DVD of the 2002 Hamfest held at Pierce County Fairgrounds in Graham Washington.



## How Crystal K7XK and Andrew K7ASQ spend their "Spare time!"



Photos are of Steve McKeen W7QLO's 85 ft antenna tower being put up in Milton WA at his home on Feb 19th 2011. There was a 90 ton crane there to help. It was a beautiful clear day, but it was windy and very cold! The tower went up without any problems. People climbing the tower were Alan Hughes KB7SVU, Crystal Quamme K7XK and Steve McKeen W7QLO. Several other hams were involved including: Greg N7GIM, Joseph KE7NBU, Donna KE7MAW, Bob N7NCP, Greta KF7KSW, Red K7RED, Dan KJ7PJ, Andrew K7ASQ, Jim N7RHX, Steve W7QLO, Robert KE7YRW, Connie KE7RPJ, and Renee KE7YRT.

I want one!!!!



Thanks for the  
pix Crystal!

73 Gary W6TX





## FROM THE WG7X PUBLIC SERVICE FILE: (FOR ST. PATTY'S)

IRISH BEER TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE		
<u>SYMPTOM</u>	<u>CAUSE</u>	<u>CORRECTIVE ACTION</u>
Feet cold and wet	Glass Being held at incorrect angle.	Rotate glass so that open end points toward ceiling
Feet warm and wet	Improper Bladder Control	Stand next to nearest dog, complain about lack of house training
Beer unusually pale and tasteless	a. Glass empty. b. You're holding a Coors Lite	Get someone to buy you another beer
Opposite wall covered with fluorescent lights	You have fallen over backward.	Have yourself leashed to the bar
Mouth contains cigarette butts, back of head covered with ashes	You have fallen forward	See above
Beer tasteless, front of your shirt is wet	a. Mouth not open b. Glass applied to wrong part of face	Retire to restroom, practice in front of mirror
Floor Blurred	You are looking through bottom of empty glass	Get someone to buy you another beer
Floor moving	You are being carried out	Find out if you are being taken to another bar
Room seems unusually dark	Bar has closed	Confirm home address with bartender. If staff is gone, grab a six-pack to go and hit the nearest fire escape door. Run.
Taxi suddenly takes on colorful aspect and textures	Beer consumption has exceeded personal limitations	Cover mouth, open window, stick head outside
Everyone looks up to you and smiles	You are dancing on the table	Fall on someone cushy-looking
Beer is crystal-clear	It's water! Somebody is trying to sober you up	Punch him
Hands hurt, nose hurts, mind unusually clear	You have been in a fight	Apologize to everyone you see, just in case it was them
Don't remember the words to the song	Beer is just right	Play air guitar
Don't recognize anyone, don't recognize the room you're in	You've wandered into the wrong party	See if they have free beer
Your bedroom is painted gray, has a concrete floor and an interesting steel door. Toilet may be conveniently located next to your bunk	a. You're in jail b. You're in the navy	Sleep it off, you can always get out tomorrow. Don't talk to your new roommate, and under no circumstances sleep on your stomach
You are dancing to a Village People song, and your partner is wearing leather chaps	You're in a gay bar	Keeping your back to the wall, edge toward nearest exit. Do not accept offers for backrubs
Your singing sounds distorted	The beer is too weak	Have more beer until your voice improves

**Dateline: March 2011**

## **Sparky's "View from the Shack"**

***This and that around the club, and more...***

*Sparky's welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.*

- Legacy photo
- Around the Club
- ARRL and such
- Comm Academy's comin'
- Attaboys

### **Legacy Photo**



A few months back I posted a photo of our Oakes Street clubhouse (still there). Here's a 1916 convention photo in front of the same building, Lets hope our 90th Anniversary brings in a few more folks

### **Around the Club...**

Club activities are perking along, and now that Spring is within sight, its time to begin the warm weather season. Don't forget the Mike and Key Hamfest March 12th, lots of people, boat anchors, and an opportunity to promote the Radio Club of Tacoma as well. Drop by our table and serve a few minutes welcoming visitors to our venerable club which celebrates its 95th Anniversary this coming October.

Gary—WG7X continues to seek folks to step to head up several club activities in the coming year; Al Churchill AC7BU has picked up the annual club Kirkreit picnic now scheduled for 11 June at the Spanaway Park shelter "D"; Still open are this year's Field Day operation; and may other tasks. If you have a hankering combined with some latent talent in organizing and managing or administrative & computer skills; or want to learn how it's done, there are opportunities a-plenty.. Just contact Gary WG7X, or any of the other Club officers.

2011 membership renewals are due. If you haven't received a renewal application form please contact Frank AC7JY. Time is running short, your membership grace period ends March 31st. The club roster of course should be expected shortly after March 31st when all have had ample opportunity to renew.

## ARRL...and such...

### CONVERSATION

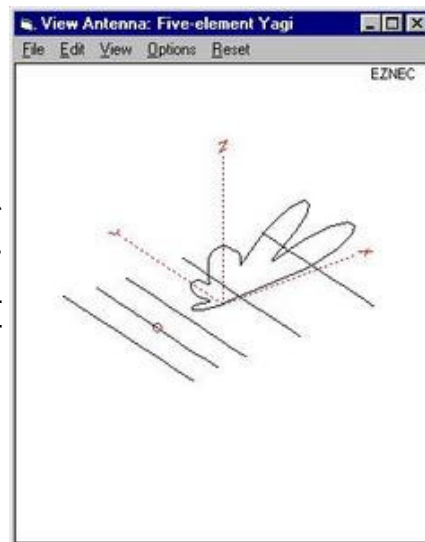
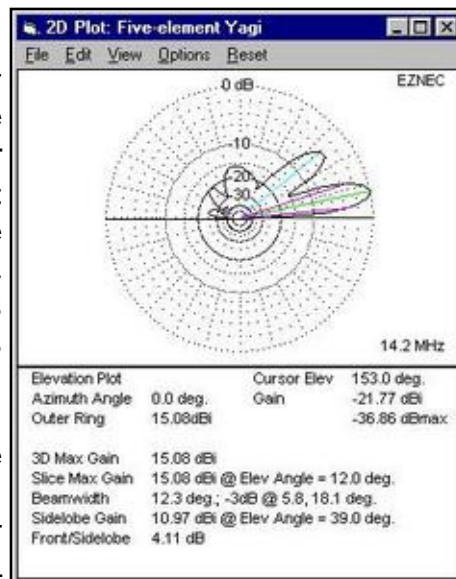
#### An EZ Choice

In case you hadn't heard the news, the Dayton Hamvention's Technical Excellence Award for 2011 has been given to Roy Lewellan, W7EL, author of the [EZNEC](#) antenna modeling program. It's entirely appropriate that Roy was recognized for making professional-quality antenna modeling software available and affordable to hams!

While there are other fine antenna modeling programs available, EZNEC has become the standard tool used by amateurs world-wide for antenna design and experimentation. Its modest cost, accurate results, and ease of use have completely changed the game of amateur antenna design. In the scope of its effects on and benefits delivered to amateurs, it has been Promethean. It is to Amateur Radio what SPICE is to analog electronics and the forward pass to football.

After Roy's mid-1990's introduction of ELNEC (the MS-DOS precursor to EZNEC), the world changed. An amateur (i.e. - me, for instance) could suddenly create, enter, simulate, evaluate, and revise an antenna design on a personal computer in a continuous flow of development. The results were actually representative of the actual antenna's performance, the effects of ground could be included, and the output was graphic - not tabular. ELNEC gave way to EZNEC and we were on our way.

Those of us that have been around a while remember the old "cut and try" (and try, and try, and try...) era of antenna design and construction before computer modeling. If we were fortunate enough to know a professional antenna designer, we might get a few "runs" on their software but there was no such thing as "interactive design". Graphic output of radiation patterns and SWR curves were a fantasy. Mostly, we had to take on faith the tables in handbooks and articles in magazines, cut and drill, then hope the resulting antennas would work for us while having little understanding of the subtleties involved in what makes an antenna work - or not.





If there was ever an instance that warranted the over-used phrase "paradigm shift", this was surely one. As a result, amateur experimentation in antenna design exploded, leading to many innovations such as new configurations of parasitic arrays, whole new classes of receiving antennas, antenna stacking design, and others too numerous to count. It is now expected that any new antenna design comes with a model - almost always an EZNEC model.

While as Larry W7IUV once said, "I don't think anyone has made an EZNEC-to-EZNEC QSO yet," somewhere an amateur is using EZNEC software right now to invent or improve or learn about an antenna in a way that was simply unimaginable before. Then they certainly will make that QSO and many more. A tip of the Contest Update cap to Roy Lewellan, W7EL.

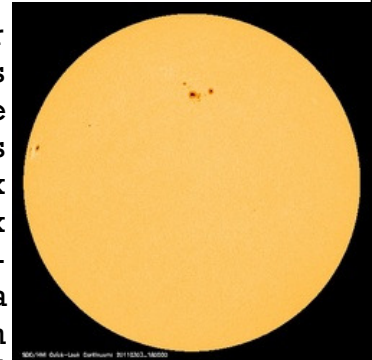
### **73, Ward NØAX**

### **Solar Update**

Tad "[Waiting for the Sun](#)" Cook, K7RA, reports: Solar activity is on the rise again, but the average sunspot and solar flux numbers are down, compared with last week. This week, the average daily sunspot number declined more than 14 points to 50.9, and the average daily solar flux was off 7 points to 96.8. The average daily planetary A index rose from 6.1 to 9, and the average mid-latitude A index was about the same, declining from 5.4 to 5.1. The most active day for geomagnetic indexes was March 1, with a planetary A index of 31. The planetary K index rose as high as 6 on that day. NOAA and USAF predict solar flux at 115 on March 3, 120 on March 4-10, 110 on March 11-15 and 105 on March 16-17. The planetary A index is forecast at 15, 12 and 10 on March 3-5, 5 on March 6-13 and 7 on March 14-15. The monthly average of sunspot numbers for December through February was 22, 32.2 and 53.5. Look for more information -- including a take on why Solar Cycle 24 has been so weak -- on the ARRL website on Friday, March 4. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the [ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page](#).

This week's "Tad Cookism" is brought to you by The Doors' [Waiting for the Sun](#).

The term "G5RV antenna" is applied to lots of antennas that would be hard for G5RV to recognize as his creation. If you want "the original Greek", [G5RV's original article](#) from 1958 is available online. (Thanks, Bill K4CIA)



The Sun, as seen on Thursday, March 3, 2011 from [NASA's SOHO Extreme Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope](#). This [MDI](#) (Michelson Doppler Imager) image was taken in the continuum near the Ni I 6768 Angstrom line. The most prominent features are the sunspots. This is very much how the Sun looks in the visible range of the spectrum.



Glenn KDØQ is a big fan of the [Safety LifeLine](#) for climbing his AN Wireless free-standing tower. "The sleeve that attaches to the cable also attaches directly to the front of my harness - I use no lanyard. The sleeve slides right along the cable with me as I climb. It really reduces the time it takes to climb the tower compared to hooking and unhooking two lanyards. I feel much safer as the hooking and unhooking is eliminated and there is little slack to take up if something happens."

If you want a reliable, rugged footswitch, follow the lead of the tattoo artist whose customers would not care at all for incomplete body art. Ron WW8RR - who is not a tattoo artist - recommends the [Linemaster Gem switches](#). "These are round, heavy duty, weighted, non-skid, virtually indestructible foot switches. Since they are round it doesn't matter which angle your foot hits the switch, it activates. The internal design does not use any micro switch, but instead has three compression springs, heavy brass rings, and steel plate. It is as robust as it gets. There is really nothing in the design to wear out or fatigue."



If you want to be climbing towers when you are WØAIH's age, wear your safety gear every time as Tree N6TR is doing here while getting the rover rotator aligned to north on the tilt-up temporary tower. (Photo from N6TR)

### Attaboys:

It time to tip Sparky's hat to the Property Management Team...Over the past nine months, they have spent countless hours, sometimes on their hands and knees, or lugging huge boat anchor gear around to get it inventoried and coordinated with club managers to determine whether we need to keep it or find a better home for it. The end result is that years of estate and other donated equipment has been turned into cash for the Club's operations. As this is written, a sizeable collection is readied for presentation and sale at the Mike and Key Hamfest on 12 March. During the past few months, our very large tube collection has been inventoried and auctioned as well. Thanks to Frank AC7JY; Bob K76MXE, Jack K7DBU; Bruce W7EP; Al N7OMS, Pete KK7QW, Chuck AC7QN, Gary WG7X, Larry KD4VOM and Rich KR7W

Our Property Management depends heavily on the donations we receive, especially from estates.

### Communications Academy is coming...

The 13th annual Communications Academy will be held April 16-17 2011 at South Seattle Community College.

The Communications Academy is open to anyone with an interest in emergency communications, volunteer or professional. The presentations are designed to promote the development of knowledgeable, skilled emergency communicators who will support their local communities during a disaster or

Our mission number this year is: 11-T-112

Online Registration is now open - [Click here to begin](#)

### ***Bringing Professionalism to Amateur Emergency Communications***

#### **Legislative News: ARRL Members Respond to HR 607**

Last month, a bill was introduced in the US House of Representatives that addresses certain spectrum management issues, including the creation and maintenance of a nationwide Public Safety broadband network. This bill -- HR 607, known as *The Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011* -- if passed, also calls to auction off parts of the 70 cm band, namely 420-440 and 450-470 MHz. As such, the ARRL asked its members to write their Representative, asking them to not support HR 607 in its current form.

According to ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, Chwat & Co -- the ARRL's legislative relations firm in Washington, DC -- received al-

most 1000 letters from League members in opposition to HR 607. "This is a great start and many thanks to the diligent members who have risen to the challenge; however, it cannot stop there. As long as HR 607 is in its current form, we must continue this campaign." He clarified that the ARRL opposes HR 607 *in its present form*: "We do not oppose the concept of dedicated spectrum for the development of a Public Safety infrastructure and wireless network. We object to the bill because of the inclusion of 420-440 MHz as part of the spectrum to be swapped and auctioned to commercial users." Click [here](#) for some pointers for writing letters in opposition to HR 607.



ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, gives some hints for how to draft a letter to your Representative in opposition to HR 607.

### **View from the Shack...**

**The boys of summer are in Peoria, getting ready for the summer season. We too should be getting ready for our summer season. Mike and Key Hamfest kicks off Spring, The Kirkreit Picnic on 11 June, Field Day and Hamfest coming. Not to mention contesting, rag chewing and hanging out at the clubhouse. What's not to like? 73**

*Sparky*

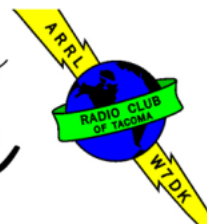
***"Don't worry about what people think, they don't do it very often."***

*The Disclaimer...*

*These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed*



## The Radio Club of Tacoma's Logger's Bark



*The Logger's Bark* is the **OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA**... and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

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## Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5    Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

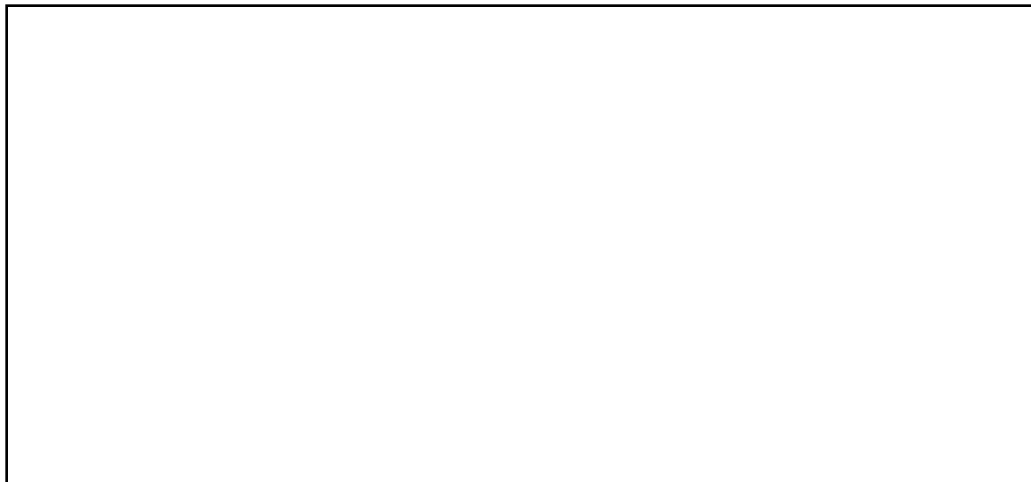
***The Loggers Bark***

**Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.**

**PO Box 11188**

**Tacoma, WA 98411**

**To RCT Member:**



# MARCH 2011 EVENTS

**CLUB MEETINGS:** Wednesdays March 9th and 23rd at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

**Board Meeting:** Wednesday March 2nd 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

**Bark Deadline:** Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

**Support our club:** Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

**Check into the weekly two meter net:** Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

**Check into the weekly 10 meter net:** Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .